

**IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
FOR THE SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF OHIO
WESTERN DIVISION**

| | | |
|---------------------------|---|----------------------|
| UNITED STATES OF AMERICA, | : | Case No. 3:20-cr-083 |
| Plaintiff, | : | Judge Thomas M. Rose |
| v. | : | |
| CHRISTOPHER J. STARGELL, | : | |
| Defendant. | : | |

PRELIMINARY ORDER OF FORFEITURE

Upon the United States' Motion for Preliminary Order of Forfeiture and the Court's review of the evidence in the record, including the Plea Agreement, the Court HEREBY FINDS THAT:

On August 11, 2020, a grand jury in the Southern District of Ohio returned a two-count Indictment, charging Christopher J. Stargell (hereinafter the "Defendant") in Count 1 with fraud against the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP), in violation of 7 U.S.C. § 2024(b); and in Count 2 with conspiracy to knowingly and intentionally possess with intent to distribute and distribute in excess of 50 grams of a mixture of substance containing a detectable amount of methamphetamine, its salts, isomers, or salts of its isomers, a Schedule II Controlled Substance, in violation of 21 U.S.C. §§ 841(a)(1), 841(b)(1)(B)(viii), and 846.

Pursuant to Fed. R. Crim. P. 32.2(a), Forfeiture Allegation 1 in the Indictment provided notice to the Defendant that the United States would seek the forfeiture, pursuant to 18 U.S.C. § 981(a)(1)(C) and 28 U.S.C. § 2461(c), of any property, real or personal, which constitutes or is derived from proceeds traceable to the violation set forth in Count 1 of the Indictment, and pursuant to 7 U.S.C. § 2024(f), of all property, real and personal, used in a transaction or attempted transaction, to commit, or to facilitate the commission of, such violation, or proceeds traceable to

such violation. Forfeiture Allegation 2 provided notice to the Defendant that the United States would seek the forfeiture, pursuant to 21 U.S.C. § 853(a), of any property constituting, or derived from, any proceeds the Defendant obtained, directly or indirectly, as a result of the offense charged in Count 2 of the Indictment, and any property used, or intended to be used, in any manner or part, to commit, or to facilitate the commission of such violation.

The forfeiture allegations identified miscellaneous cell phones, firearms and ammunition, and computer/electronic equipment for forfeiture, which are more specifically described as follows (the “subject property”):

- 1 round FC Luger 9mm ammunition;
- 20 rounds of Luger Tulammo ammunition;
- 2 Ruger magazines each containing 7 rounds of 9mm hollow point Luger;
- Motorola cell phone with broken screen, Serial No. 351840099607578;
- Motorola cell phone, blue/black, Serial No. 352168103380464;
- iPhone S-1 cell phone, pink, Serial No. 355681073780916;
- My Passport portable storage drive, Serial No. WX51AC071829;
- Winchester 12 gauge Rifle, Serial No. L1532391;
- Mossberg bolt action 22, no Serial No.;
- US Arms 800, 12 gauge shotgun, Serial No. 201010; and
- 32 Caliber Handgun, Serial No. 1167649 with 21 rounds of ammunition.

On or about November 20, 2020, the Defendant entered into a Plea Agreement with the United States in which the Defendant agreed to plead guilty to Counts 1 and 2 of the Indictment and agreed to the immediate forfeiture of the miscellaneous cell phones, firearms and ammunition, and computer/electronic equipment, as further described above.

The Defendant entered pleas of guilty to Counts 1 and 2 of the Indictment on November 20, 2020.

The subject property is forfeitable, pursuant to 18 U.S.C. § 981(a)(1)(C) and 28 U.S.C. § 2461(c), 7 U.S.C. § 2024(f), and/or 21 U.S.C. § 853(a). The Defendant had an interest in the subject property.

The United States has established the requisite nexus between the subject property and the Defendant's offenses.

THEREFORE, IT IS HEREBY ORDERED THAT:

1. All right, title, and interest in the subject property is condemned and forfeited to the United States pursuant to 18 U.S.C. § 981(a)(1)(C) and 28 U.S.C. § 2461(c), 7 U.S.C. § 2024(f), and/or 21 U.S.C. § 853(a).

2. The United States is authorized to seize the subject property, pursuant to 21 U.S.C. § 853(g) and Fed. R. Crim. P. 32.2(b)(3), whether held by the Defendant or a third party; conduct any discovery for identifying, locating, or disposing of the property; and to commence proceedings that comply with any statutes governing third party rights.

3. In accordance with the direction provided by the Attorney General and Fed. R. Crim. P. 32.2(b)(6), the United States shall publish notice of this Order and send notice to any person who reasonably appears to be a potential claimant with standing to contest the forfeiture in the ancillary proceeding. Publication must take place as described in Supplemental Rule G(4)(a)(iii) of the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure, and may be by any means described in Supplemental Rule G(4)(a)(iv). Publication is unnecessary if any exception in Supplemental Rule G(4)(a)(i) applies.

4. The notice must describe the forfeited property, state the times under the applicable

statute when a petition contesting the forfeiture must be filed, and state the name and contact information for the Assistant United States Attorney to be served with the petition. The notice may be sent in accordance with Supplemental Rules G(4)(b)(iii)-(v).

5. Pursuant to 21 U.S.C. § 853(n)(2), any person, other than the Defendant, asserting a legal interest in the subject property, who wishes to contest the forfeiture of the subject property must, within thirty (30) days of the final publication of notice or of receipt of actual notice, whichever is earlier, file a petition in the United States District Court for the Southern District of Ohio for a hearing to adjudicate the validity of the alleged legal interest in the subject property.

6. Any petition filed by a third party shall be signed by the petitioner under penalty of perjury and shall set forth the nature and extent of the petitioner's right, title, or interest in the property; the time and circumstances of the petitioner's acquisition of the right, title, or interest in the property; any additional facts supporting the petitioner's claim; and the relief sought.

7. The United States shall have clear title to the subject property following the Court's disposition of all third party interests, or if no third party petitions are timely filed, following the expiration of the period provided by statute for the filing of third party petitions.

8. In accordance with the Plea Agreement, this Preliminary Order of Forfeiture is final as to the Defendant and shall be made part of the sentence and included in the Judgment. This Order remains preliminary as to third parties until the ancillary proceeding is concluded.

SO ORDERED:

Dated: December 19, 2020

*s/Thomas M. Rose

THOMAS M. ROSE
UNITED STATES DISTRICT JUDGE